GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:403
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2004
PRICES OF MEDICINES
Shahid Shri Mohammed

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that medicines for cancer are being sold at exorbitant prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the names of imported and indigenous products being marketed;

(c) whether these products are under price decontrol,

(d) the maximum retail price of each and the margin of retailers;

(e) whether NPPA is monitoring the price increase; and

(f) if so, the details of prices increased for each product during each of the last three years?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS & MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a) to (f) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.403 FOR ANSWER ON 24.8.2004 REGARDING PRICE OF MEDICINES.

(a) to (f) : The Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO,1995) was promulgated by the Government vide S.O. 18(E) dated 6.1.1995. The 74 bulk drugs specified in its First Schedule and the formulations based thereon are under price control and their prices are fixed/ revised by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in accordance with the provisions of the DPCO,1995. These drugs have been identified for inclusion under price control in the DPCO,95, on the basis of criteria mentioned in the 'Modifications in Drug Policy, 1986,' announced in September,1994. These criteria take into account the extent of usage and the market competition of various drugs. None of the 74 bulk drugs specified in the First Schedule of DPCO,95 is an anti-cancer drug.

Prices of non-Scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturers themselves keeping in view the various factors like cost of production, marketing/selling expenses, R&D expenses, trade commission, market competition, product innovation, product quality etc. The Government takes corrective measures when the public interest is found to be adversely affected.

NPPA has not noticed any significant price increase in respect of anti-cancer drugs. Some of the major drugs including injections with considerable sale value include NEOTREXATE, LETOVAL, MISOPROST, LETROZ, LUPRIDE, CYTOLOG, INTAXEL. Their retail prices vary from approx. Rs.38/- to approx. Rs.3460/-. Details are enclosed. The medicine referred to at S.No. 1 is fully imported in finished form. As regards Sl. Nos. 2,4 and 5 these medicines are indigenously manufactured by M/s. Sun Pharma. The formulation at Sl. No. 6 is manufactured in India, based on imported bulk drug. Information with regard to Sl. No.s. 3, 7 and 8 is not immediately available.